From: eyewrite@juno.com
nt: Tuesday, October 14, 2003 11:37 AM
J: adoptionregs@state.gov
Subject: State/AR-01/96

PSC 108, Box 20
APO AE 09842

October 14, 2003

DOS
CA/OCS/PRI
Adoption Regulations Docket Room, SA-29
2201 C St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Re: State/ AR-01/96

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to offer an addition to the new Hague regulations on adoption
agencies, based on personal experience. My husband and I tried to adopt from
Russia last year. He is a State Dept. employee, but our situation could happen to
anyone.

We hosted a boy in 2001 who was brought over as part of Cradle of Hope's summer
program. We fell in love with him, but decided not to use the agency to adopt. We
tried to adopt independently, which works fine in Russia as long as you use a
properly certified agency for your homestudy (we did). We passed our homestudy
and our children were excited about their new brother.

However, when we got to court in 2002, Cradle of Hope had written a letter saying
why we shouldn't adopt. We also believe that the agency slowed down the process
to get to court in the first place - which was only resolved when our attorney
wrote the local judge and the judge informed the local officials that they were
breaking the law by failing to respond. We cannot prove Cradle of Hope's
involvement before court, but we certainly can prove its involvement at court.
The letter said that we couldn't afford to adopt (despite our being approved in
the homestudy to adopt two children) and brought up some issues that had not been
"problems" when we were hosting. We were refused our petition to adopt.

When I called Linda Perlman, the agency's director, she admitted having written
the letter but refused to provide us with a copy of it. So we were not allowed to
see directly a document by an American adoption agency that had been used against
us.

My suggestion is that agencies not be allowed to be involved in adoptions
overseas of families that do not use those particular agencies. I feel a non-
interference clause is greatly needed.

Thank you for your time,

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Ellen Wilson